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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Attorney Docket No. VTIP 00.140)

In re Patent Application of: ) Appln. No.: 10/029,840  
 ) Confirmation No.: 5348  
XIANG-JIN MENG *et al.* ) Group Art Unit: 1648  
 ) Examiner: Shanon A. Foley  
Filed: December 31, 2001 ) Paper No.: 22

For: AVIAN HEPATITIS E VIRUS, VACCINES AND METHODS OF  
PROTECTING AGAINST AVIAN HEPATITIS-SPLENOMEGALY  
SYNDROME AND MAMMALIAN HEPATITIS E

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith in the above-referenced patent application is an Amendment after Final Rejection. No additional fee is required for the amendment.

It is pointed out once again that the attorney docket number was changed from "AM100389" to VTIP 00.140. This change had been submitted to the Office on February 18, 2003 and noted in Transmittal Letter dated June 18, 2004. The Office is asked to kindly make the change in the Official record of this application.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,  
VIRGINIA TECH INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTIES, INC.

Date: February 17, 2005

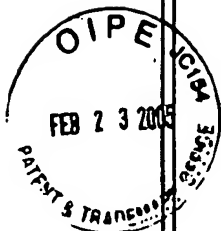
By: Anne M. Rosenblum  
Anne M. Rosenblum  
Attorney for Applicants  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on February 17, 2005 with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Anne M. Rosenblum  
Anne M. Rosenblum

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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office communication mailed November 17, 2004, please amend the above-referenced patent application pursuant to the following instructions and consider the remarks in a favorable light.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The amendment to the claims is warranted to respond directly to the Office action. The claims, if amended as proposed, do not present any new issues requiring further consideration or search. This amendment adds no new matter and requires only a cursory review by the Examiner.

While Applicants cannot amend the finally rejected claims as a matter of right, it is believed that the amendment places the application in condition for an immediate allowance. As will be explained in the Remarks, the amendment overcomes the rejections of record. In accord with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, the proposed amendment to the claims and a complete listing of all claims begin on a separate sheet to facilitate separate indexing and scanning of the amendment for placement in an e-file wrapper. Only the claim number and status indicate the canceled claims. For the convenience of the Office staff, the amendment is placed in the below Appendix and incorporated herein by reference thereto.

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